

CLAIMS

1 1. A method for sharing a device in a computer system between operating system uses and
2 non-operating system uses, comprising:
3 generating a false remove signal in regard to a device;
4 placing said device in a sleep state;
5 using said device for non-operating system uses;
6 awakening said device from sleep and returning it to the operating system.

1 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the false remove signal is generated in
2 response to a request to divert the device.

1 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the operating system consults tables upon
2 receipt of the remove signal to determine the meaning of the signal and the device involved.

1 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the device is used to perform a BIOS update.

1 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein data present in the device is stored in memory
2 when the device is put in a sleep state and returned to the device when it is awakened.

1 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said awakening is in response to a second
2 false signal.

1 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said device is a processor.

1 8. An apparatus for sharing a device between operating system uses and non-operating
2 system uses, comprising:

3 a plurality of devices;
4 a controller connected to said devices through a bus;
5 a memory connected to said controller;
6 means to request access to a device for non-operating system uses;
7 said controller generating a false remove event in response to a request to divert the device,
8 putting the device to sleep and granting control of the device to non-operating system uses for a
9 limited time and awakening the device after the non-operating system use is completed.

1 9. The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a peripheral component interface
2 bus connected to said controller, to which other peripheral components can be connected.

1 10. The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising means for generating a BIOS
2 update.

1 11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the means for generating is a flash
2 update.

1 12. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said device is a processor.

1 13. A method of operating a server, comprising:
2 providing a plurality of devices, a controller connected to said devices and a memory
3 connected to said controller;

4 using said devices to perform operating system tasks;
5 generating a false remove signal concerning at least one of said plurality of devices;
6 placing said device in a sleep state;
7 using said device for a non-operating system use for a limited time;
8 awakening said device after said non-operating system use ends.

1 14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said non-operating system use is a BIOS
2 update.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the update is a flash update.

16. The method according to claim 13, wherein said remove signal is generated in response
2 to a request to divert a device.

17. The method according to claim 13, wherein said awakening is in response to a second
2 false signal.

1 18. The method according to claim 13, wherein said device is a processor.